

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 /017 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4402

UNCLAS BANGKOK 11149

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BGEN TH

SUBJ: POST RELATIONSHIPS WITH AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

1. EMBASSY BANGKOK BELIEVES ITS RELATIONS WITH AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN THAILAND (AMCHAM) ARE CLOSE AND MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL, WITH FREQUENT CONTACT MAINTAINED BY OFFICERS THROUGHOUT MISSION, AND AT SEVERAL LEVELS. SOME OF THE CONTACT IS ON A REGULARLY SCHEDULED BASIS, WHILE SOME IS AD HOC.

2. REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

A. AMBASSADOR, WHO IS AMCHAM HONORARY PRESIDENT, HAS A MONTHLY MEETING WITH AMCHAM BOARD OF GOVERNORS, WITH AGENDA HAVING BEEN DRAWN UP JOINTLY BY EMBASSY/AMCHAM.

B. FOR LAST THREE YEARS, MISSION HAS PRESENTED A SERIES OF "ALL-MISSION BRIEFINGS" FOR ENTIRE CHAMBER MEMBERSHIP. AT THESE BRIEFING MEETINGS, EACH LASTING ONE HALF DAY EVERY SIX MONTHS, KEY OFFICERS OF THE MISSION (EMBASSY, USIS AND USOM) GIVE PRESENTATIONS ON ECONOMIC, COMMERCIAL, POLITICAL, AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENTS AND TRENDS IN THAILAND, DESIGNED TO ASSIST AMERICAN COMPANY REPRESENTATIVES IN PREPARING THEIR REQUIRED PERIODIC REPORTS TO HOME OFFICES IN THE U.S. THIS PROGRAM HAS PROVED TO BE ESPECIALLY POPULAR AMONG AMCHAM MEMBERS.

C. AT LEAST ONE OR TWO, AND USUALLY MORE EMBASSY OFFICERS REGULARLY ATTEND AMCHAM'S MONTHLY LUNCHEON MEETINGS FOR  
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ENTIRE MEMBERSHIP. AMBASSADOR IS TRADITIONALLY GUEST SPEAKER AT THE JANUARY MEETING.

D. EIGHT MISSION OFFICERS ARE MEMBERS OF FIVE OF THE AMCHAM'S STANDING COMMITTEES (CIVIC AFFAIRS, LABOR RELATIONS, PUBLIC AFFAIRS, PROGRAM, TAX AND LEGISLATION, AND TRADE EXPANSION), AND REGULARLY PARTICIPATE IN THEIR MONTHLY MEETINGS.

E. COMMERCIAL ATTACHE CONTRIBUTES AN ARTICLE TO EACH ISSUE OF AMCHAM'S BI-MONTHLY JOURNAL, AND USIS ASSISTS IN DEVELOPING AN EFFECTIVE LOCAL DISTRIBUTION LIST FOR THE JOURNAL.

3. EMBASSY'S COMMERCIAL SECTION IS LOCATED IN SAME OFFICE BUILDING AS AMCHAM OFFICES, AND THERE IS FREQUENT INFORMAL CONSULTATION BETWEEN THE TWO ON A VARIETY OF MATTERS. THESE INCLUDE SUCH THINGS AS ASSISTING WITH REPLIES TO BUSINESS LETTERS EITHER MIGHT RECEIVE, PROBLEMS AFFECTING INDIVIDUAL AMCHAM MEMBER COMPANIES, MAJOR EXPORT PROJECTS, AND ISSUES SUCH AS THE ALIEN BUSINESS LAW, THE THAI-US AER TREATY, ETC. CHAMBER OFFICERS AND MEMBERS ALSO CONSULT ON IRREGULAR BASIS WITH OTHER MISSION OFFICERS, INCLUDING CONSULAR, ADMINISTRATIVE, ECONOMIC, AGRICULTURE, LABOR, AND OTHERS, DEPENDING ON CIRCUMSTANCES. EMBASSY NOTIFIES AMCHAM OF FORTHCOMING VISITS OF VIP'S SO THEY CAN BE INVITED TO SPEAK AT BREAKFAST AND LUNCHEON MEETINGS, AND HAS ALSO ARRANGED SPECIAL BRIEFINGS FOR AMCHAM MEMBERS WITH VISITING EXPERTS. AT AMCHAM'S INVITATION, ECONOMIC COUNSELOR HAS ATTENDED LAST TWO APCAC MEETINGS AS MEMBER OF THAI DELEGATION. IT IS OUR INTENTION TO CONSULT WITH AMCHAM FROM TIME TO TIME IN FUTURE CCP MEETINGS TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT ACTION PROGRAMS FOR FY 77 AND FY 88.

4. ON AN INFORMAL BASIS, AMCHAM OFFICERS AND MEMBERS ARE INCLUDED IN NUMEROUS SOCIAL FUNCTIONS GIVEN BY MISSION OFFICERS, AND EMBASSY WORKS CLOSELY WITH AMCHAM IN ORGANIZING ANNUAL 4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION FOR AMERICAN COMMUNITY. RECENTLY, GOLF AND TENNIS TOURNAMENTS WERE HELD BETWEEN MISSION AND AMCHAM TEAMS.

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5. ALTHOUGH NOT ALL WOULD HAVE APPLICABILITY OUTSIDE THAILAND, DEPARTMENT WILL ALSO BE INTERESTED IN FOLLOWING SUMMARIZED LISTING OF "EMBASSY/AMCHAM ACTION PLANS," RECENTLY PREPARED BY CHAMBER, DESCRIBING SOME 20 MATTERS IN WHICH IT AND ITS VARIOUS COMMITTEES ARE INVOLVED, REQUIRING COORDINATION WITH U.S. MISSION. LISTING ALSO IDENTIFIES THE COMMITTEES WHICH ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR EACH ACTION PLAN:

A. TREATY OF AMITY AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS (COORDINATING WITH EMBASSY ON STATUS OF NEGOTIATIONS AT SUCH TIME AS

THEY MAY OCCUR AND ASSURING A CHANNEL FOR AMCHAM TO EXPRESS ITS VIEWS).

B. INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL AND RECREATION CLUB (CONTINUED COORDINATION WITH EMBASSY).

C. WARDEN SYSTEM (CONTINUE LIAISON WITH EMBASSY).

D. ALIEN BUSINESS LAW (COORDINATE WITH EMBASSY TO CLARIFY REMAINING ISSUES).

E. DEVELOPMENT OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES (IDENTIFY COMMON AREAS WHERE EMBASSY/AMCHAM JOINT EFFORT CAN IDENTIFY SPECIFIC AREAS OF OPPORTUNITY).

F. MAJOR PROJECT LIST (CONTINUE LIAISON WITH EMBASSY).

G. EMBASSY BRIEFINGS (DEFINE SPECIFIC TOPIC AREAS FOR EMBASSY BRIEFINGS AND BE PREPARED TO RESPOND TO EMBASSY QUESTIONS).

H. EMBASSY VISITS TO U.S. INVESTMENTS (CONTINUE TO EXTEND OPPORTUNITY TO EMBASSY PERSONNEL TO VISIT U.S. INVESTMENTS IN THAILAND).

I. ASSISTANCE ON CUSTOMS PROCEDURES (DIALOGUE WITH APPROPRIATE EMBASSY SECTION FOR ASSISTANCE WHEN/IF NEEDED TO HELP RATIONALIZE CUSTOMS PRACTICES).

J. U.S. TAXES - 911/912 (COORDINATE WITH EMBASSY WHEN/IF NEEDED TO SUPPLY INPUT DATA TO ALLOW DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
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TO ASSIST APCAC EFFORT).

K. EARLY WARNING SYSTEM FOR PROPOSED LEGISLATION (COORDINATE WITH EMBASSY TO DEVELOP EARLY WARNING SYSTEM FOR ANY PROPOSED LEGISLATION WHICH MAY AFFECT BUSINESS COMMUNITY; FOLLOW-UP TO PROVIDE INPUT MATERIAL TO ALLOW FOR RTG/EMBASSY AND/OR RTG/AMCHAM DIALOGUE PRIOR TO IMPLEMENTATION).

L. ASEAN (OPEN CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION FOR AMCHAM INPUT WHICH MAY BE COMMUNICATED TO RTG VIA EMBASSY IF APPROPRIATE).

M. LABOR PROBLEMS (IDENTIFY LABOR PROBLEMS, ASSIST WITH COORDINATING EMBASSY/COMPANY ACTION, AND PROVIDE EMBASSY WITH EARLY WARNING OF POTENTIAL LABOR PROBLEMS).

N. USOM PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (PROVIDE USOM

WITH INPUT MATERIAL, INJECT AMCHAM IDEAS, AND ASSIST IN  
REALIZING DEVELOPMENT THROUGH U.S. BUSINESS CHANNELS).

O. BRIEFING BREAKFASTS (CONTINUE TO INVITE PARTICIPATION  
BY RELEVANT EMBASSY PERSONNEL IN AMCHAM BREAKFAST BRIEFINGS).

P. BICENTENNIAL PROGRAM (COORDINATE ON PROMOTION OF  
BICENTENNIAL THROUGH AMCHAM ACTIVITIES).

Q. USIS/AMCHAM JOURNAL (CONTINUE LIAISON).

R. EXCHANGE OF ECONOMIC DATA (CONTINUE LIAISON WITH EMBASSY).

S. AMCHAM/EMBASSY RELATIONSHIP (BOARD OF GOVERNORS TO  
ENSURE PROMPT RESPONSE TO EMBASSY REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION  
IN RECOGNITION THAT THE CONTINUATION OF CLOSE WORKING  
RELATIONSHIP REQUIRES ACTIVE PARTICIPATION BY BOTH  
PARTIES).

6. THIS TELEGRAM HAS BEEN COORDINATED WITH AMCHAM  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Review Authority:** ellisoob  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 13 AUG 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <13 AUG 2004 by schaeafaj>; APPROVED <11 JAN 2005 by ellisoob>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
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**Subject:** POST RELATIONSHIPS WITH AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
**TAGS:** BGEN, TH  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006